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By The Dawn's Early Light

For many town dwellers the "dawn's early light" is a phrase we sing when somebody strikes up the "Star Spangled Banner." For Appomattox and Concord volunteer firemen and a number of other individuals, the "dawn's early light" brought an end to hours of darkness on Thursday morning, Jan. 21 and extremely hard work as firemen battled fire and smoke in the three - building complex on South Church Street which destroyed Robertson's Photo-on-China shop, Dr. W. P. Geisler's office and an apartment building.

Great credit is due the firemen for controlling the fire. There were possibilities there for even greater loss to business structures and homes nearby, and the firemen did their work well. The Appomattox County Rescue Squad came not only once, but twice during the early morning darkness in response to some breathing difficulty by firemen struggling through the smoke. Then the Squad vehicle and volunteers stayed on "stand-by" until the fire was out.

Numerous other individuals came, too -- opened buildings to furnish storage room for furniture and business equipment for the people burned out. There was hot coffee for firemen and others and a marvelous spirit of helpfulness to all concerned.

Robertson is "back in business" now in a nearby building because of this same spirit. Dr. Geisler has located office space. The family burned out has moved to another apartment. Motorists driving by the blackened ruins of the buildings may not realize that it all happened in the darkness, and that if it were not for our firemen this disaster might have been much worse.

New Voter Laws

Cont'd from Page 1

formerly could qualify up to 10 days after the primaries.

To be fitted in new schedules, town elections have been moved up from June to the first Tuesday in May (May 4 in 1971).

New voter registration deadlines, which are generally 30 days before primary and general elections as books are closed, will be:

April 3, municipal general elections; June 8, county and state primaries, and October 2 for the November county and state general election.

Absentee voting by mail henceforth will be limited to: military personnel in away-from-home assignments; Citizens working outside the U. S. and the sick and disabled. Eligible votors who will be away for the election must vote absentee in person through contacts with local registrars and electoral boards.

Fair Practices

The Fair Election Practices Act is that portion of the new laws designated to keep down campaign expenses and to incorporate a political fairness doctrine. Now candidates and party committees will have to designate publicly repository banks and funnel all campaign funds through these accounts, with after-election reports based on these.

The other aspect of this section is designed to stop the preparation and spread of anonymous material involving political candida'es.

Voting Machines

The new law also puts a deadline for completion of a statewide computerized central system of registration by October 1, 1973. By then all voters will be listed in Richmond by names, addresses and Social Security numbers, and the localities and the state required to make periodic purging of local and state registration books.

A final section requires a gradual adoption of automatic voting machines, statewide. Counties must have them by October 1, 1976.

COLONIAL PIPELINE

Cont'd from Page 1

near Baltimore, Md. These new stations will be located at intermediate sites between existing stations.

When this latest expansion is completed, the Colonial system, already the largest refined petroleum products pipeline in the world, will consist of 1,991 miles of main line between Houston, Texas and the New York harbor area serving a large section of the southeast as well as the metropolitan areas of Washington, D. C., Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York. In addition a total of 1,553 miles of spur lines will serve many cities which are not located along the route of the mail line. Horsepower on the system will have been increased 10% to a total of 805,025.

COMMISSIONERS APPROVE

Cont'd from Page 1

in Richmond, a project which is "a rather marvelous job" in Kenny's opinion.

In other action the chairman, Carl Cress, informed the commissioners that there has been some activity in the Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce concerning the possibility of exploring a regional airport to serve Lynchburg, Bedford, Roanoke and possibly other surrounding communities.

The Criminal Justice Committee Progress Report was given by Bud Harding.

Chairman Cress stated that he and the Rev. Herbert Barks, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Lynchburg, attended a seminar on the drug education program.

A lengthy discussion was held on the subject of merger between Reservoirs Regional and Planning District # 11 and # 12, with a report to be given at the next Commission meeting.

Three highway projects were reviewed and endorsed, one in Bedford county, one, Amherst, and one, the city of Lynchburg.

A motion was approved to seek Amherst county's share of state funds for planning to CVPDC even though Amherst is not a member of the Planning Commission inasmuch as the Commission has to review and do all the planning in Amherst.

Next Commission meeting is Feb. 25 at Central Va. Community College.

The Pastor Speaks

THE BIBLE SPEAKS

BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

ETERNITY . . . or,

A Word to the Careless

My dear friend, I want to say a word to you. You are on a journey, and every breath you draw, whether walking, sleeping, attending to your business, pleasure-seeking, of whatever you may be about -- every breath you draw is but one step nearer the end of your journey: ETERNITY. Then let me ask you, with a real concern for your soul, Where will you spend Eternity? Oh do not forget that eternity is before you! In the early morn, in the glowing noontide, in the calm evening, in the dark night, Eternity is before you! Oh, my dear friend, if you have never thought of this before, think of it now -- Eternity! Eternity! Eternity!

A farmer had been prospered, and had been able in the meridian of his life to lay by a competency, and so he made arrangements to move into a neighboring city with his family, and enjoy his substance. But just as he had completed his arrangements, God, whom he had left out of his plans, spoke to him. A fever laid hold of the poor man, and nothing could be done. His physicians gave him up, and then he was brought face to face with eternity. During the last three days of his life, he lay tossing on his bed, and there was only one word escaped his lips, that was Eternity! And so he passed away. But oh that the echo from that death-bed might arouse thee! Oh, sinner, listen to that word, Eternity! Eternity!! Again I ask you, Where will you spend Eternity?

But I had another word for you: That poor man on his death-bed found out that though he had left God out for this life, still the time came when he had to do with God. YOU have to do with God! You are trying to hide yourself from God, but you can not do it. You will find out, like Hagar, that God is the LIVING and SEEING GOD. And be sure of this: YOUR SIN WILL FIND YOU OUT -- if not now, in eternity. If you do not get in the light of God's presence now, you must then. Oh, poor soul, do not put off salvation - do not delay. GOD! ETERNITY! YOUR SINS! Poor sinner, what will you do?

Earnie W. Lucas, Pastor
Bible Baptist Church
Appomattox, Va. 24522

CRIME PREVENTION WEEK. FEB. 7-13

WHAT IS HUMILITY?

Lesson for February 14, 1971

Background Scripture: Luke 14: 7-11; 18:9-14

Jesus' parable about the places of honor at a banquet remind me of an experience I had a number of years ago. We were living in the suburbs of New York City at the time, A seminary classmate and his wife came to visit us and had but one request: they wanted to be in the audience for one of Jack Paar's "Tonight" shows.

In order to get there early enough to get good seats, I proposed taking a "short-cut" into the city to beat the traffic. Like so many best-laid plans of mice and men, this one went astray and we got to the studio just as the doors were closing. When we got inside it was obvious that there were no more seats available except for a front row reserved for VIP's.

The Last Were First

My heart sank, but just then, the usher beckoned to us, leading us down to the front row of seats, I couldn't believe it: these were the best possible seats, just a few yards away from the performers. As we sat down, the crowd, knowing as we did that these seats are reserved for dignitaries, began to buzz excitedly with, "I wonder who THEY are!"

Apparently the performers were just as confused for they too smiled and nodded at us. Mr. Hugh Downs came by our seats and chatted with us for a few minutes, Mr. Paar's guests on the show would from time to time direct their attention to us as if we were the sole audience and later, when Elsa Maxwell brought some food on stage, she brought some over to us, setting the studio audience to buzzing once again.

Often I have wondered why that usher did what he did with us that night. Perhaps he was one of God's angels sent to demonstrate anew that God often makes "the last" to be "first." My own best efforts to be "first" had ended in near disaster and it was only an act of grace that literally propelled us forward.

Humility And Truth

From time to time we must be thus humbled before we learn to be truly humble. We must learn that we cannot make it through life on our own wit and righteousness. In fact, in addition to the fact that we cannot achieve moral perfection, God does not require it of us as a prerequisite to answering our prayers. Creative prayer, the only demand God does make of us, is humility, not perfection.

Often, then, the channel of grace is closed to us, not because we are sinners, but because we are not humble and, worst of all, we may not even know that we are not humble.

Inverted Pride

So what is humility? St. Vincent de Paul says, "The reason why God is so great a lover of humility, is because He is the great Lover of Truth." St. Theresa puts it even more simply: ". . . it has always seemed to me that humility is simply truth." What God wants of us, then, is not modest lies or self-mutilation, but the truth. He wants us to be honest about ourselves. E. Herman says: "At least one-half of what we call humility, especially the habit of self-accusation and self-abasement which passes for a deep sense of sin, is the fruit of self-obsession."

Self-abasement may often be no more than an inverted pride. What God wants of us is simply the truth. It is both bad enough and good enough without distortion.

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Released by Community Press Service.)

GIVE TO fight birth defects MARCH OF DIMES

CHESTNUT GROVE

The Rev. Robert Edward Johnson of Richmond was Sunday dinner guests of Mrs. Janie Repass.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Baird of Dillwyn were Saturday visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Bryan.

Visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Harris Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Flood Harris of Burkeville, and Rita Waycaster of Dillwyn.

Mrs. Ruth Beasley returned home Monday after spending last week with Mr. and Mrs. Sam Baldwin at Rustburg.

Billy Saul of Piney Point, Md., John Saul of Atlanta, Ga. were week end visitors of Mrs. T. N. Saul.

Visitors in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond G. Barr Saturday were Mr. and Mrs. Ray L. Daty of Andersonville.

Mrs. Lucy Glover is visiting Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Cook in Richmond.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Senger visited her brother, Frank Pope in a Richmond Hospital Sunday and also Mrs. Leota Kulick in Richmond.

Mr and Mrs. C. H. Morris visited Mr. and Mrs. Claud Morris of Dillwyn Sunday.

Visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Morris for the week end were Mr. and Mrs. Sonny O'Brien of Spout Spring.

Lewis Glover has returned to Fort Lauderdale, Florida after spending some time with her mother, Mrs. Lucy Glover.

Carl and Marvin Glover and their families were Sunday in the home Mrs. C. H. Morris.

The Rev. and Mrs. lett, Rev. R. E. Jo Richmond were visi day in the home of M W. T. Cook.

Mr. and Mrs. K. M Jr. and Katherine El Mrs. Katherine Carp Spring Saturday.

Mrs. T. N. Saul w to the HD Club Mee home.

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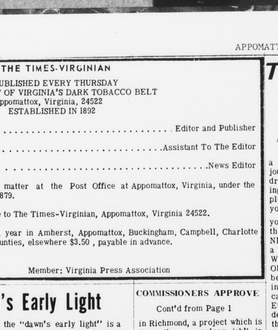

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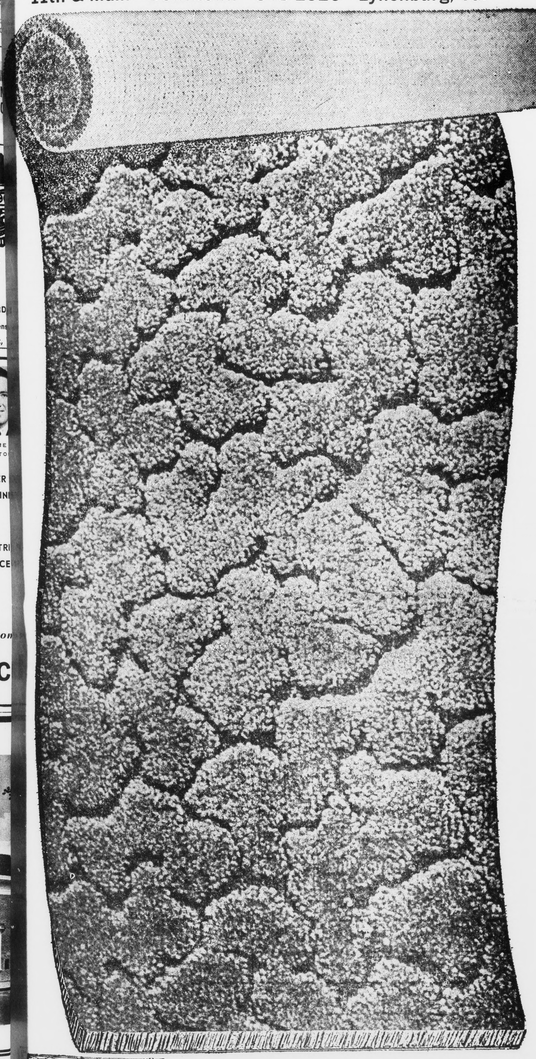

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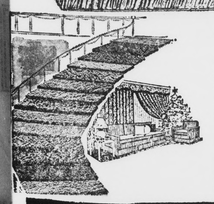

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